

## CONNECTICUT

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation – Signed with Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation in 1994. To explore areas of cooperation and implement the programs of "Linking Schools through Language and Technology." (See below under Student/Teacher Exchange.)

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2. Memorandum of Understanding with Spain – Signed with Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain in 1997. Cooperation includes the following activities:

- Visiting Teachers (84 teachers in 47 school districts since inception)
- Teaching Assistants (15 teaching assistants in 10 school districts and University of Connecticut since inception)
- Inservice Training for Teachers and Administrators (workshops, professional development activities, etc.)
- Summer Scholarships for Teachers and Students
- Development of Resource Center for the Teaching of Spanish

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Related Agreement through Inter-University Consortium:

- Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and University of Salamanca: "Hispano-North American Inter-University Specialization in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures" (2001 to present)
- M.A. specialization in Spanish for graduate students and inservice teachers in Spanish language and Hispanic literature and cultures. Students take 21 credits at CCSU and 9 credits at the University of Salamanca. (CCSU and the University of Connecticut participate with nine other universities in the United States in an Inter-university consortium with the University of Salamanca.)

Contacts: Dr. Paloma Lapuerta, Program Director, Tel: (860) 832-2884; Fax: (860) 832-2899; Email: [lapuertap@ccsu.edu](mailto:lapuertap@ccsu.edu), or Dr. Lilián Uribe, Program Coordinator, Tel: (860) 832-2893; Fax: (860) 832-2899; Email: [uribe@ccsu.edu](mailto:uribe@ccsu.edu). Website: <http://www.modlang.ccsu.edu/Spanish/>.

A separate MOU with Spain focuses on the development of a Resource Center for the Teaching of Spanish at the University of Connecticut (1998 to present). The Center helps promote the training of K-12 teachers, provides resources for the teaching of Spanish, and facilitates the organization of workshops and cultural activities.

Contact: Heliodoro Rodríguez Fontecha, Education Advisor in Residence, Embassy of Spain; Tel: (860) 713-6754; Fax: (860) 713-7018; Email: [heliodoro.fontecha@po.state.ct.us](mailto:heliodoro.fontecha@po.state.ct.us); website: <http://sp.uconn.edu/~spresctr/>.

3. Memorandum of Understanding with Italy – Signed with the Consulate General of Italy in New York in 1998. The agreement includes the following components:

- provide partial incentive funding to start Italian language programs before Grade 4 (13 schools have participated since inception and up to 3000 students each year)
- Visiting Teachers (not yet implemented)
- Inservice Training for Teachers and Administrators (workshops, professional development activities, etc.)
- Summer Scholarships for Teachers and Students
- Development of a Resource Center for the Teaching of Italian

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Additional cooperation involves Central Connecticut State University and the Connecticut State Board of Education, and focuses on the development of a Resource Center for the Teaching of Italian at Central Connecticut State University (2000 to present). The Center helps promote the training of K-12 teachers, provides resources for the teaching of Italian, and facilitates the organization of workshops and cultural activities.

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4. Memorandum of Understanding with France – Signed in 2002 with the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education in France. Cooperation also includes a special agreement with the "Académie de Toulouse." Activities include the following:

- School pairings for videoconferencing over the Internet (50 schools in each country have asked for partners. We conducted a successful test already between Coventry, CT, and Millau, France.)
- Visiting Teachers (pilot program in 2002-2003)
- Teaching Assistants (not yet implemented)
- Develop joint teacher preparation program with the IUFM of the "Académie de Toulouse," including opportunities for student teaching in each country. Delegation will come to Connecticut to discuss this in October 2002.
- Scholarships for teachers and students
- Develop Resource Center for the Teaching of French (request for proposals sent out)

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5. Legislative Partnership with Germany – Begun in 1991, the Baden-Württemberg - Connecticut Exchange provides opportunities for university students from all disciplines to receive credit for studies at institutions in the partner state, and it promotes the larger goals of economic development and cooperation central to the legislative partnership.

Contact: Dr. Renate Seitz, Tel: (860) 947-1303; Fax: (860) 947-1310; Email: [rseitz@ctdhe.org](mailto:rseitz@ctdhe.org); Website: <http://www.ctdhe.org/IntExch/default.htm>.

6. Student/Teacher Exchange with Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan – The “Linking Schools through Language and Technology” (1993-2001), funded by the U.S. Department of State under the Freedom Support Act, partnered secondary schools in Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan with 30 school districts in Connecticut, one school in Tennessee and one school in Rhode Island.

Approximately 1500 students and teachers participated in three-week exchanges and worked on year-long projects via email that were published on a dedicated web site. Participants studied in Russian and English during the term of the project, and many projects were submitted in both languages. Partner institutions included Yale University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Brown University and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Of note, United Technologies (Hamilton Standard) sponsored a two-way interactive videoconference between Hamilton Standard in Windsor Locks, CT, and the Russian Space center outside of Moscow related to students' research projects on space travel. Topics included space suits and space toilets, both of which are manufactured at Hamilton Standard.

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7. International Field Study with China – The U.S. Department of Education funded a curriculum development project, “Changing China: Economy in Transition,” under the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program in July 2002. The grant allowed sixteen Connecticut teachers to conduct a four-week field study in China to observe, research and produce professional development presentations and curriculum on contemporary Chinese economy. Each participating teacher kept a daily journal, conducted two ethnographies, prepared site reports, submitted a photographic documentary, and prepared lessons and a unit of study on the changing Chinese economy for classroom. Participants will conduct a series of local presentations to school and community groups during the coming school year. During the month of July 2002, participants will study at several sites in China: Shanghai, where Connecticut has business ties; Shandong Province, the sister province to the state of Connecticut; Xian, the historical government and economic center; and Beijing. Connecticut-based businesses in China as well as state owned businesses and financial institutions were analyzed for their impact on the Chinese and Connecticut economies. The project, a collaboration of the Connecticut State Department of Education, World Affairs Council-Hartford and EASTCONN, sought to develop a core group of China teacher specialists who will be skilled in classroom instruction and professional development. The field study was directed by Daniel W. Gregg, Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education and Mary Goetter, World Affairs Council.

Contact: Daniel W. Gregg, Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 215, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 713-6744. Website: [http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currsoes\\_fulbrt02.htm](http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currsoes_fulbrt02.htm).

## 8. International Issues Programs

- Capitol Forum – The Capitol Forum brings together a number of partners in each state to run student forums on international issues. It is sponsored nationally by the Choices for the 21st Century Education Program at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. Choices provides content materials, national coordination, and overall structure to the program. The office of the Secretary of State in Connecticut plays a key role as the host at the state capitol and the entrée to public officials. The Secretary of State also lends the program public authenticity, helping students make connections between their classroom studies and the making of public policy. A "lead teacher" is prepared by Choices during a summer institute to take a leadership role with participating teachers. S/he leads two professional development workshops, prepares participating teachers for their leadership roles at the forum, leads the forum, and participates as a member of the program's organizing team. The Capitol Forum is a program of the Choices for the 21st Century Education Program at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. It is endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and identified by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) as a best practice in youth

civic engagement. In Connecticut, it is sponsored by the Program on International Educational Resources at Yale University, and the Connecticut League of Women Voters with the support of the Connecticut State Department of Education.

For further information email [choices@brown.edu](mailto:choices@brown.edu), call the Choices Education Program at (401) 863-3155, or contact Daniel W. Gregg, Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 215, Hartford, CT 06106, email [dan.gregg@po.state.ct.us](mailto:dan.gregg@po.state.ct.us), Tel: (860) 713-6744.

- Model United Nations Program – For more than fifty years, the World Affairs Council with the support of the Connecticut State Department of Education has both challenged and intrigued the minds of high school students across the state through the annual Model United Nations Program. Thousands of students have participated statewide, confronting first-hand the problems, frustrations, procedures and excitement which international diplomats experience at the United Nations. Students leave the Model United Nations with a grater awareness of international issues. One unique aspect of the Model United Nations program is that it is run by students. Students take on leadership roles and provide the driving force behind the entire event.

Contact: Mary Goetter, World Affairs Council, P.O. Box 330569, West Hartford, CT 06133, Tel: (860) 594-4100, Email [wachtfld@aol.com](mailto:wachtfld@aol.com).

- International Issues Conferences – For nearly ten years the Connecticut State Department of Education and *Newsweek* sponsored one-day teacher International Issues Conferences. Each conference focused on country, regional or global issues such as terrorism, the environment or economy. The format included an expert on the topic, a presentation by a *Newsweek* journalist, and workshops on content and teaching. The model was very successful in keeping teachers up-to-date on current events.

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9. Yale Center for International and Area Studies – PIER, the Programs in International Educational Resources of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, provides programs and services designed to broaden understanding of global, international, and world regional issues. YCIAS/PIER currently has professionals who focus on Africa, East Asia, Latin America, and Europe, as well as global and trans-national issues.

For more information, go to <http://www.yale.edu/pieris/>.

10. State Board of Education Initiatives / Position Statement on International Education – Please see the Connecticut State Board of Education's February 6, 2002, Position Statement on International Education at <http://www.state.ct.us/sde/board/international.pdf>.